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MUFTI ARRANGES PALESTINIAN INSTRUCTORS FOR SYRIAN ARMY

Source Cryptonym:

References: As Indicated

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Subject: Mufti Arranges Palestinian  
Instructors for Syrian Army      Report No: HLB-2667  
Place Acquired: Beirut, Lebanon      Date of Information: Current  
Evaluation: B-2      Date Acquired: 19 June 1951  
Source: C [ ]

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1. Source states that in mid-June 1951 a letter from the Grand Mufti of Palestine, Hajji Amin al-HUSAINI, was received through the Beirut office of the Arab Higher Committee for the following-named addressees:

→ AWDAH, Ibrahim  
→ DA'UL, 'Ali  
→ SAFURI Mahmud  
→ SHAHAN, Mahmud  
→ SHABAN (fnu) Brother of Mahmud SHAHAN  
→ SHIBLAK, Hasen

2. The above are all Palestinian refugees, originally from the Galilee area and now living in Lebanon. All had experience in the Jewish-Arab fighting in Palestine — particularly SAFURI, who is noted as a fighter.
3. In his letter the Mufti instructed these men to move to Damascus. He told them that he had made all arrangements with Col. Adib SHISHAKLI to receive them. He said that they will be used to train Palestinian commandos, who will be mostly young men from the Galilee area. These commandos, he told them in the letter, will be used to harass the Israelis along the Syro-Israeli border.

Field Notes:

Paragraph 1: The Grand Mufti's efforts to place Palestinian refugees in the Syrian Army have been reported in HLB's-2622 and 2647. Ibrahim AWDAAH has been reported in HLB-2179. He is probably identical with the Awda Ibrahim AWDAAH of HLB-2171 and may possibly be identical with the Ibrahim AWDAAH of HLB-1907. SAFURI is probably the "Abd-Mahmud SAFURI of HLB's-1958, 2063, 2179, and 2376, and may be the "Muhammad

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Mahmud al-SAFURI" of RLB's-2171 and 2358. For Hasan SHIBLAK see RLB's-1958, 2063, 2171, 2179, 2368, 2376, and 2538. We find no traces on the SHABAN's.

Paragraph 3: Col. SHISHAKLI has been reported recently in RLB's-2604, 2610, 2632, 2647, etc.

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